

Watauga Democrat.

VOL. XI.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1899.

NO. II.

An Interesting Correspondence.

The following past-election letters that were passed between Hon. R. Z. Linney and John M. Brower and published in the Mount Airy News, to say the least, put in pretty plain language, and very much to the point:-

TAYLORSVILLE, N. C., Nov. 11, '98.

Hon. John M. Brower, Surrogate North Carolina.

DEAR SIR:-You are something of a philosopher as well as a statesman. I had been informed that you, after canvassing Ashe county, were of opinion that I would not be permitted to go to Ashe at all. I, however, rashly took the risk and was met by 1,200 horsemen with 500 flags two miles from Jefferson, who escorted me into the town and listened to me discuss matters and things in general for two hours. The report is I am the only Republican candidate that carried the county—all the other Republican candidates are defeated. Allow me to thank you for your services. Very truly yours,

R. Z. LINNEY

MT. AIRY, N. C., Nov. 16, '98.

Hon. R. Z. Linney, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

DEAR SIR:-Your letter of the 11th inst. is at hand. As you are not held by anybody to be either a philosopher or statesman, I cannot compliment you either on your mental balancing power or your knowledge of politics. However, we all know you are over in our pasture for the grass you can get, and we will rest contented with that. I have delayed answering your letter to recover from the violent shock caused by the weighty words of wisdom. My information is that the 1,200 people whom you claim to have met you went out to meet Col. Boyd, who was expected to speak. The people were very much disappointed at his failure to appear. That they did not mob you was not because they didn't feel like it, but because, as Republicans, they are the "salt of the earth," and would do nothing to reflect on their party.

I can see no reason why a true Republican should rejoice over the result in this congressional district. Ten Republican Senators were elected in it two years ago. This year we get one, and I am proud to say he is from my senatorial district. Two years ago all the members of the House from this congressional district except three were Republicans, elected by large majorities. This year we get only seven—most of them elected by bare majorities. Two years ago this district gave 3,550 Republican majority; this year we get only about 800 majority. Hundreds and hundreds of loyal Republicans held their noses and voted for you, because they would take no chances of losing the House of Representatives. They felt that while you are in no sense a Republican, you would vote with the party that controls the patronage

and pays you your salary. You will get \$10,000 more to misrepresent this district and misapply the patronage. You can kiss your seat goodbye when you leave it two years from next March.

You thank me for my services. You are not as liberal as your chairman. He offered me office and money if I would withdraw from the race and publish a card asking the Republicans to support you. Of course you knew all about it. This was the only proposition that was made to compensate me during the campaign, despite the fact that your henchmen reported that I was in the pay of the Democrats. I am informed that you made the same statement. I fought your election from a patriotic desire to purge the Republican party of a vampire, which has sucked its blood almost to the death of the party. I oppose you because I think you are not a Republican in any sense and that you simply dwell among us for a living. You are like many others who have come to us since 1880—because they could get nothing from the Democrats. The manner in which you manipulated the Wilkesboro convention displayed all the qualities of a political pirate, who boarded the ship for plunder. I shall always be found fighting the rings and cliques which subsist on your patronage and cater to your selfish desires. I have no personal feeling in this business. I am purely a philosopher as you designate me. The Republican party must purge itself of you. You and your kind have delivered us into the hands of the Democracy. The rank and file of the Republican party have rebuked the leaders who forced you and such soreback Democrats as you upon us. I have the consolation of knowing that in this dark day of Republican sorrow I have forced you for the first time during your four years' service to thank me for my service to you, over your own signed manual, and not a rubber stamp. I am also proud to know you have to roost very low, although you crow loud. Yours, &c.,

JOHN M. BROWER.

* An exchange says: The Hon. Chauncey Depew is admonishing Americans that they now have a country on which the sun never sets, and incidentally that the Hon. Chauncey Depew has a mouth which never shuts.

La Grippe Successfully Treated.

"I have just recovered from the second attack of la grippe this year," says Mr. Jas. A. Jones, publisher of the Leader, Mexico, Texas. "In the latter case I used Chamberlain's cough remedy, and I think with considerable success, only being in bed a little over two days against ten days for the former attack. The second attack I am satisfied would have been equally as bad as the first but for the use of this remedy as I had to go to bed in about six hours after being 'struck' with it, while in the first case I was able to attend to business about two days before getting 'down.'" For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

CUT DOWN THE FEES.

Chatham Record.

The Legislature when it meets is expected to do much more than it, or any other Legislature, can do. But one thing it can do, and that is reduce some of the fees now paid to our officers. This is wherein our fusion legislators most signally failed to do their duty and to fulfil their oft-repeated promises.

Everybody remembers one of the favorite campaign cries of the so-called "reformers" was the promise to "reduce all fees and salaries to correspond with the low prices of farm products." They complained loudly that our public officials were receiving as much for their work as they ever did, while the farmers were not receiving over half as much for their work. But when these pretended "reformers" got the power to keep their promise, they signally failed to do so, and did not reduce any fees or salaries.

Now, while the members of our Democratic Legislature did not make any such promises in the last campaign, yet we would impress upon them the propriety of carefully considering the fees allowed all our public officers and reducing all that seem proper to reduce. And there is no doubt that many fees ought to be reduced. A special committee on the reduction of fees and salaries ought to be appointed by the Legislature and our present fee-bills carefully scanned so that proper reduction may be made.

We will not here attempt to call attention to all the fees that ought to be reduced, but will cite one or two in order to show the propriety, if not necessity, of this important matter being carefully considered by our legislators. Take as an illustration the office of register of deeds, which is one of the best paying offices in every county. Among the fees received by the register is 25 cents for every order issued by the county commissioners, without regard to the amount of the order. For instance, at the last meeting of the commissioners of this county an order was issued to remit 22 cents on the taxes of one of our citizens, and the county had to pay the register 25 cents to record and issue the order!

The register is *ex-officio* clerk of the board of county commissioners and is paid \$2 a day for his services in such, and it does not seem right that he should be paid an additional 25 cents for every order made by them, when usually he issues most of these orders on the same day that they are made. In this way the register of deeds frequently receives \$25 for one day's work—and not a hard day's work at that.

Another expense that ought to be cut off is the payment by the county for filling up the blank tax receipts for the sheriff. This work had always been done by the sheriff without extra pay until the Legislature of 1893 ordered

the county commissioners to have it done for the sheriff, and each Legislature, since then has incorporated this useless expense in its revenue act. For this work the counties pay on an average about \$100 apiece every year, thus making nearly \$10,000 a year paid by the people of North Carolina for having the tax receipts filled up for their sheriffs. Usually any man is glad to fill up, or write, a receipt for any money paid him, and our sheriffs ought to do so, just as they always did before 1893.

The fact that most of the county officers of this State are now Democrats should not deter a Democratic Legislature from reducing their fees. The only question is, ought any of their fees be reduced? If they ought, then reduce them regardless of the politics of the officers who will be affected thereby. Our legislators should remember that they are expected to legislate and enact laws in the interest of the tax-payers and not of the officeholders, and most of the taxes are paid by the Democrats.

The State constitution (in section 15 of article III) prohibits the Legislature from diminishing the salaries of the Governor and other executive State officers during the term for which they are elected. Therefore the salaries of our present State officers cannot be reduced, even if our Legislature should wish to do so. But it is otherwise with the fees and salaries of our county officers, for by section 18 of article IV of the constitution the Legislature is expressly authorized to regulate them.

Atchison Daily Globe: Some one once wrote a sentimental song about the "light in the window for me," and ever since that time the "light in the window" has figured in poetry and song to a greater extent, and in a more sentimental manner, than it is entitled to. The cold truth is that when there is a light in the window it means some one is sitting up to give the last one to come home a scolding or advice about the good sense of going to bed earlier. A light in the window is something that a nagged person never fails to see, and when his eyes first see it in turning a corner he gets a cold chill and longs for a home in a boarding house. The "light in the window" sentiment is badly overdone.

How to Prevent Pneumonia.

You are perhaps aware that pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of la grippe. During the epidemic of la grippe a few years ago when so many cases resulted in pneumonia, it was observed that the attack was never followed by that disease when Chamberlain's cough remedy was used. It counteracts any tendency of a cold or la grippe to result in that dangerous disease. It is the best remedy in the world for bad colds and la grippe. Every bottle warranted. For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Beware of cheap imitations.
Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

A Letter from Gastonia.

Editor Democrat:

In the last issue of the DEMOCRAT you say that there are 1,000 members of Baptist churches in Watauga county. There are near 3,000 Baptists in the county. There are more than 2,000 in Three Forks Association. All the churches have monthly preaching, just as the fathers did one hundred years ago. In that respect we have made no advance in a century.

Only one church in the county paid as much as \$100 to the pastor last year. Many of the stronger churches have dropped off one half of the pastor's salary in five years. Churches that paid \$100 five years ago pay \$50 now, and yet the men who attend those churches say that they can't give up those churches for fear they can't get a living. The pastors in Watauga county are good men, I know them, but they can't be spiritually minded because they must work and study business. They are worldly minded. They think business and talk business. They are barely able to feed and clothe their wives and children. They can never educate their children, only a few days each year in the Public schools is all the education their children get. A few of the preachers of Watauga Co. have property, but they never made it by preaching. Some of them had it given to them and others made it by trading or hard work.

Bro. Editor, I have given 30 years of my life to the work of preaching in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. I have only made a "sorry living" as the world would say. I can never educate my children. If they are ever educated they will have to get it themselves. I think I will visit my old home in Watauga in a few days and probably locate in the county to stay. I love those people as I love no other. I do want to see our people in those churches living up to the measure of their duties. I know that our Baptist preachers are a little cold to their brethren in the ministry and appear willing for their brethren to leave the county. Brethren why is this? Is it jealousy?

The churches of Gastonia are now without a pastor and we have brethren here from a distance nearly every Sunday advertising themselves for the pastorate here, by coming and giving the brethren one of their best performances, they call them sermons. I have preached for the Baptist saints a few times, but not as a candidate for the pastorate for I am no candidate for any city pastorate. I like the work in the county and small towns. I suppose it is because I am not "tony enough" as some say. Well, I find there is plenty of religious work in our town, but I see the great lack of deep spirituality everywhere. A great lack of deep heart-felt love for God and his Word and a want of longing for the salvation of souls.

Allow me to wish for all the DEMOCRAT's readers a happy New Year. Yours truly,

E. F. JONES.

The natives of Porto Rico make soap for washing purposes out of the leaves and bulbs of plants. Their shaving soap is prepared from coconut oil and home made lye, and the process of shaving involves the use of a coconut shell cup, a donkey tail brush and a razor fashioned from a piece of broken glass.—Ex.

Keep Coughing

We know of nothing better to tear the lining of your throat and lungs. It is better than wet feet to cause bronchitis and pneumonia. Only keep it up long enough and you will succeed in reducing your weight, losing your appetite, bringing on a slow fever and making everything exactly right for the germs of consumption.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

cures coughs of every kind. An ordinary cough disappears in a single night. The racking coughs of bronchitis are soon completely mastered. And, if not too far along, the coughs of consumption are completely cured.

Ask your druggist for one of

Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plaster.

It will aid the action of the Cherry Pectoral.

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NOTICE.

Having qualified as Administrator of L. L. Greene, deceased, late of Watauga county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned within twelve months from the date of this notice or it will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. Dec. 15, '98.

MATTIE J. GREENE, Adm'r.

NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator of Pinkney Underwood, deceased, all persons having claims against his estate are notified to present the same duly authenticated within 12 months from the date of this notice, or it will be plead in bar of their recovery. This Jan. 2, 1899.

C. J. COTTRELL, Adm'r.